The Press

The printing of books in Yakutiya followed the decision of the Yakut government to introduce the Yakut language into schools in 1922. The next year a Yakut-language paper, Kyym (The Spark), began to come out and was later made into the oblast daily paper. 204 [217]

At the present time 25 regional newspapers are published in the Republic, of which 17 are in the vernacular.

The State Yakut Publishing House was set up in 1926. In its 25 years of activity it has published 2735 different books. The total number of copies amounts to more than 14,000,000. 214

Scientific Research

A tremendous amount of research work has been carried out in Yakutiya during the Soviet period. The USSR Academy of Sciences and a number of ministries concerned with industry have taken part in studying the natural resources of the country. 815

At the present time there are in Yakutiya 12 research establishments and a Pedagogical Institute which also conducts research. A tremendous amount of work has been done in the field of the hydrometeorological study of the Yakut ASSR, study of the permafrost and the fish and fur resources, agrotechnology under Yakutiyan conditions and so on. Extensive work has been carried out in the field of the arts as well. The Research Institute for Language, Literature and History of the Yakut ASSR was opened in 1935 and has continued the work of the local studies association. During the last war the institute switched from collecting research material to conducting major studies in Yakut history, folklore and language. The Yakut branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, part of which is the Language, Literature and History Institute, has a well-stocked collection of folklore, numbering about 10,000 texts. A great deal of work in collecting material on folk music has been done under the guidance of the first Yakut composer, the late M. N. Zhirkov. For a number of years Professor A. P. Okladnikov has been engaged in a systematic study of Yakut archaeology. The results of this study are summed up in the first volume of "The History of Yakutiya". 814

Folk Singers and Storytellers in Soviet Yakutiya

Following the Socialist Revolution, profound changes occurred in the oral folklore of the Yakut people. Many genres of the traditional folklore, such as shaman spells and chants, fell into disuse, while others continued on in a completely different form (singing at the ysyakh-kumys festival.) The heroic tales—olonkho—have remained the favorite form of oral folklore; they are frequently sung on the radio and at club concerts, and are included in other performances. The talented narrators of these epics, or olonkho-suts, are very popular among Soviet audiences. Many of them are members of the Union of Soviet Writers. There are now more than 400 such storytellers on the registers. 538